

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

1-14 (Canceled)

15. (New) A method for operating a dishwasher comprising at least one washing container, a re-circulation pump for conveying washing fluid to at least one spray device for acting upon items to be cleaned, which are located in the washing container, a lye pump for pumping away washing liquid from the dishwasher, the method comprising executing a wash program at least composed of the partial program steps pre-wash (V_1, V_2), clean (R_1, R_2), intermediate rinse, clear rinse (K_1, K_2) and dry, wherein the re-circulation pump and the lye pump are operated at least temporarily in an alternating manner during at least one part program step ($V_1, V_2, R_1, R_2, K_1, K_2$).
16. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the re-circulation pump and the lye pump are operated simultaneously at least temporarily during a part program step ($V_1, V_2, R_1, R_2, K_1, K_2$).
17. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein fresh water is supplied at least temporarily during a part program step ($V_1, V_2, R_1, R_2, K_1, K_2$).
18. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein during operation of the re-circulation pump the feed valve is simultaneously opened at least temporarily in order to admit fresh water into the dishwasher.
19. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the re-circulation pump is operated at least temporarily during admission of the washing liquid used for a part program step ($V_1, V_2, R_1, R_2, K_1, K_2$) into the dishwasher.

20. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein during operation of the lye pump the fed valve is opened simultaneously at least temporarily in order to admit fresh water into the dishwasher.
21. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein during a part program step (V_1 , V_2 , R_1 , R_2 , K_1 , K_2) washing liquid is removed at least temporarily from the dishwasher preferably via the lye pump.
22. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the quantity of washing liquid used for one part program step (V_1 , V_2 , R_1 , R_2 , K_1 , K_2) is successively reduced during the relevant part program step (V_1 , V_2 , R_1 , R_2 , K_1 , K_2).
23. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein in the course of a part program step (V_1 , V_2 , R_1 , R_2 , K_1 , K_2) the washing liquid is substantially completely removed from the dishwasher preferably by means of the lye pump.
24. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein after each part program step (V_1 , V_2 , R_1 , R_2 , K_1 , K_2) using washing liquid, a substantially complete change of washing liquid is undertaken.
25. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the speed or the capacity of the re-circulation pump for conveying washing liquid can be varied.
26. (New) A dishwasher comprising at least one washing container, a re-circulation pump for conveying washing fluid to at least one spray device for acting upon items to be cleaned, which are located in the washing container, a lye pump for pumping away washing liquid from the dishwasher, the dishwasher being operable to execute a wash program at least composed of the partial program steps pre-wash (V_1 , V_2), clean (R_1 , R_2), intermediate rinse, clear rinse (K_1 , K_2)

and dry, wherein the re-circulation pump and the lye pump are operated at least temporarily in an alternating manner during at least one part program step (V_1 , V_2 , R_1 , R_2 , K_1 , K_2).

27. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 26, wherein at least two spray devices are provided which can be supplied simultaneously or alternately with washing liquid by the re-circulation pump.
28. (New) The dishwasher according to claim 27, wherein the washing liquid is conveyed by the re-circulation pump to the individual spray devices at different conveying capacity.